Chicago Tribune

Sports Final

25¢ City and suburbs/35¢ elsewhere

Thursday, August 1, 1985

Firestorm at Arlington Park

Premier horse track in ruins

By Robert Enstad and John Kass

A multimillion-dollar firestorm that raged throughout the day Wednesday destroyed Arlington Park Race Track at the height of its season and less than a month before it was to have hosted one of the world's richest thoroughbred races.

The state fire marshal's office and the Illinois Department of Law Enforcement were investigating the blaze that spelled the end to horse racing at the Midwest's premier track for at least the rest of the year.

The racetrack is a major producer of revenue from a variety of taxes, and its loss could cause severe economic problems for the state and Village of Arlington Heights.

Some of the greatest horses in the last half-century, including Citation, Secretariat, Whirlaway, Assault and John Henry, the all-time leading money winner, have run at Arlington Park since the track was built in 1927.

A press conference scheduled for noon Thursday to announce the line-up for the fabled "Budweiser-Arlington Million" to be held there Aug. 25 has been canceled. Instead, track officials will hold a press conference at 4 p.m. to announce plans for salvaging the remainder of Arlington Park's season, scheduled to run through Sept. 30, and the "Million."

Since its inception in 1981 the "Million" has attracted horses from Europe in addition to the United States and Canada.

More than 150 firefighters from 25 communities were unable to save the sprawling clubhouse, grandstand, racing and exposition center complex from the blaze, which broke out Wednesday morning in the historic Post and Paddock Club on the west end of the track on Euclid Avenue. Track officials said the fire was discovered at about 1:30 a.m., and Arlington Heights fire authorities said an alarm came at 2:15 a.m.

"Maybe the most important thing about this is that, thank God, no one was hurt," Joseph Joyce Jr., Arlington Park president, said at the height of the blaze, which burned until shortly after 5 p.m.

Though no one was seriously hurt, minor injuries were reported, including minor burns and a broken foot for one firefighter.

The fire did not reach the stable area, and none of the 1,900 animals quartered at the track was endangered.

Joyce said the track's loss was

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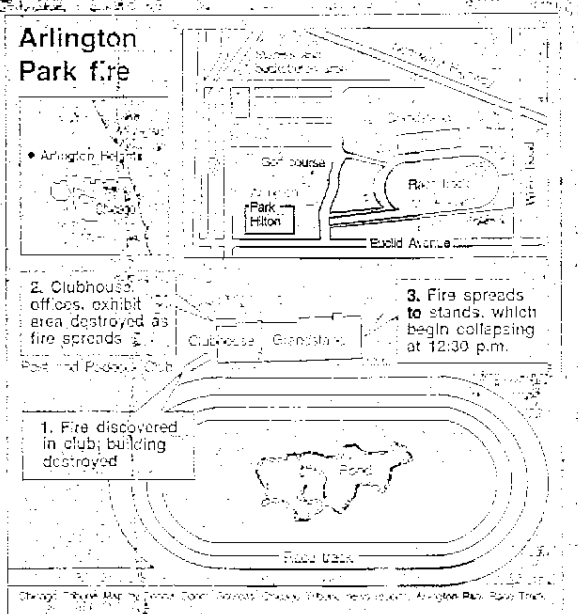

● Officials turn thoughts to salvaging racing season. Sec. 4, pg. 1.

● Battle to douse blaze turns into a rout of firefighters. Sec. 4, pg. 1.

Photo by Frank Hanes

Fire crun[illegible] superstructure of Arlington Park's clubhouse and exhibition halls Wednesday. Track officials and firefighters at the west entrance can only watch after realizing nothing could be saved.

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Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/qxbn0004

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Witness

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lor, 19, of 911 N. Hudson Ave., is being held without bond in the slaying. Taylor, who has given a statement to police, is to appear for a preliminary hearing Thursday in Cook County Circuit Court.

Police began to untangle the circumstances of the tragedy Wednesday after assuring Crosby that his family would be protected, Wodnicki said.

A spokesman for the Cook County state's attorney's office said members of the protection unit spoke with the Crosby family throughout the day but said family members asked that they not be relocated immediately. But they did not rule out being moved.

"They don't feel so threatened that they have to move right away," the spokesman said.

Roberto Rivera, director of the city's new antigang program, the Chicago Intervention Network, said that since July 1 two of seven families affected by violence in Cabrini-Green have been relocated. Rivera said counseling is being arranged for Laketa's family.

Funeral services for Laketa will be held at 8 p.m. Monday in the funeral home at 409 W. North Ave. Burial will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday in the Washington Memorial Gardens, Homewood.

Police said Laketa was waiting for her turn at jump rope Sunday evening when members of two rival gangs ran into each other in the breezeway of the high-rise where her family has lived for many years.

Taylor, whose gang's turf includes the Crosby girl's high-rise, fired at a rival gang member with a .25 caliber semiautomatic pistol, Wodnicki said, but his shot hit the girl.

Crosby arrived at the scene and Taylor helped him take the girl to Henrotin Hospital. En route, police said, Taylor told Crosby, "I didn't mean to do it."

The two made a pact that if the girl died, Taylor would tell police he was responsible, but if she lived no one would talk, Wodnicki said.

When police arrived to question Taylor and Crosby at the hospital Sunday night, the girl was alive and neither told who shot her. But police found a witness who said a rival gang member shot the girl. Police arrested the rival gang member, who was released later.

But police learned Monday that Crosby had told a friend that Taylor had shot the girl. Police said Crosby allegedly told fellow gang members not to cooperate with police.

When police arrested Taylor Monday, gang members assumed that Crosby had broken the agreement and told police Taylor had shot the girl, Wodnicki said.

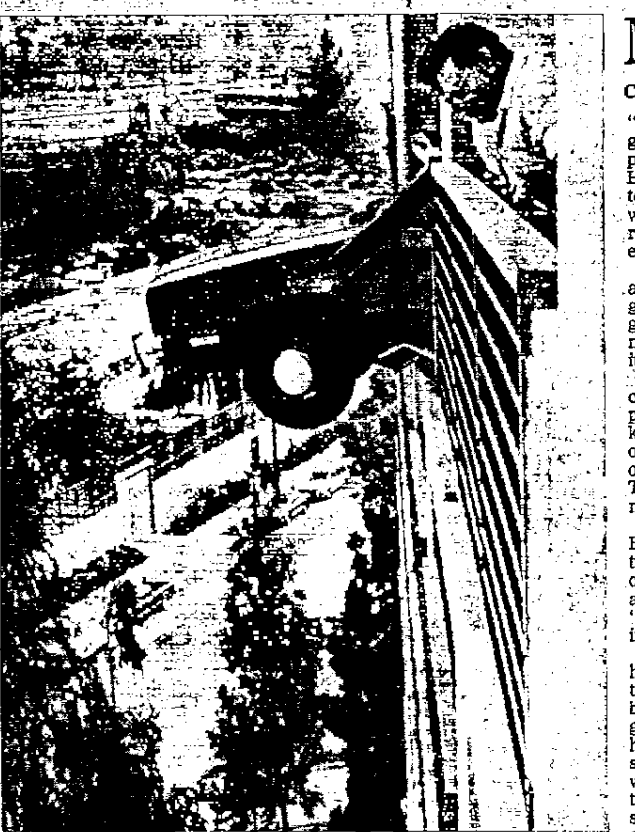
Shortly after Taylor was arrested, six or seven of the gang members found Crosby crossing the street near Cabrini-Green, grabbed him and took him into a building where they beat him and tried to throw him out a window, Wodnicki said.

Crosby escaped, went to the family's apartment and was taken to Henrotin Hospital's intensive-care unit. He was transferred to a regular recovery unit Wednesday and listed in fair condition.

In related developments Wednesday:

● Zira Smith, Chicago Housing Authority executive director, said vacant apartments in public housing complexes that have been nests for violence will be secured with steel doors.

● Rivera of the Chicago Intervention Network said a coalition of police, CHA officials and clergymen will meet to "map an effort" to quell violence in the housing projects. He said the plan will include more police foot patrols.



Parking space

A station wagon draws the attention of passersby Tuesday in a University of Southern California Medical School parking garage in Los Angeles. A safety cable saved the driver, a medical student, from a 200-foot fall.

Marines

Continued from page 1

"inflicted a major defea guerrilla organization planned and carried out th He said the raids on th took place in guerrilla-he where a conflict rages bet rebels and troops of the U ed government.

The Pentagon did not any further details or n guerrilla group to which ger referred. It said the mentioned by Weinberger ited to intelligence only.

White House and Pent cials later told news ag porters that the Salvador killed 21 members of the organization and cap others, including 2 senior They said the raids took month.

A spokesman at the S Embassy said his govern ting on intelligence tips own sources, killed or about 40 guerrillas, incl "very high-ranking comr in attacks over the last t

"The information came human intelligence sour the spokesman, who asl be named. He said U. gence reports were helpful in providing infor such things as the mo weapons, but the kind o tion needed to attack strongholds comes from sources developed total Salvador.

He also said the Salva ernment was unsure hov the guerrillas who w belonged to the PRTC

Foreign aid

Continued from page 1

1986. The House stripped the 8-year-old corporation of all remaining funds, $6.6 billion, except for $500 million, which the corporation is prohibited from spending on new projects.

The corporation was born in the wake of growing concern over the nation's dwindling energy supplies.

Supporters said the search for new energy sources is necessary to avoid another energy crises like that of the 1970s. Opponents said continued operation of the corporation was an unwise use of scarce federal dollars.

By a vote of 258-171, the House refused to accept a conference agreement that put on a fast track 41 projects, including 21 that have not been authorized by the Public Works Committee.

Instead the House voted to approve the projects but freeze funding to put pressure on Congress to enact an omnibus water bill when it returns in the fall. Sponsors hope that bill will end a nine-year stalemate over approval and funding of dams, harbors and flood-control dike construction.

The House accepted the principle, long sought by the Reagan administration, of having localities bear a greater share of the cost of future water projects subsidized by the federal government.

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